Commission No. 643

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: RAYMOND H. WILLIAMS
Date: 3/3/64

Office: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Field Office File No.: 105-2564

Bureau File No.: 105-82555

Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Synopsis: REVEREND FOWLER, Duluth, Minnesota, attended an anti-communist meeting at Shreveport, Louisiana, 2/17 to 2/21/64 and learned from some of those in attendance, which included General EDWIN WALKER and Dr. FERNANDO PENABAZ, that LEE HARVEY OSWALD shot at and deliberately missed General WALKER and that the assassination of President KENNEDY arose from an agreement between President KENNEDY and Premier KHRUSHCHEV, involving the elimination of FIDEL CASTRO. CASTRO reportedly learned of this agreement and made his own plans for the elimination of President KENNEDY. OSWALD reportedly made a trip to Mexico prior to President KENNEDY's assassination and returned to the United States with $10,000.00 and the assignment of shooting President KENNEDY. OSWALD was later shot by JACK RUBY because he did not follow the escape plan after the shooting of President KENNEDY and to prevent him from revealing the assassination plot. REVEREND FOWLER was also told that OSWALD and RUBY were two of six members of a communist cell active in Dallas, Texas.

-RUC-

DETAILS: AT DULUTH, MINNESOTA

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

As the internal evidence shows, this is not the original reporting of FBI Agent Melford O. Eid, which may have contained additional information. This makes it impossible to determine whether the error, as distinguished from fantasy, is in the original reporting, the rewriting or what Fowler said.

On February 23, 1964, Special Agent MALFORD O. EID learned that Reverend FREDERICK CURTIS FOWLER, Presbyterian Church, Duluth, Minnesota, during a speech at his church on the same date had played a tape recording of a debate between LEE HARVEY OSWALD and CARLOS BRINGUIERE at New Orleans, Louisiana, regarding the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

See appendix page for characterization of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

During this speech, Reverend FOWLER stated LEE HARVEY OSWALD shot at and deliberately missed General EDWIN WALKER and that the assassination of President KENNEDY arose from an agreement between President KENNEDY and Premier KRUSHCHEV involving the elimination of FIDEL CASTRO. Reverend FOWLER also made the statement that LEE OSWALD had made a trip to Mexico before President KENNEDY's assassination and had returned to the United States with $10,000 and the job of assassinating President KENNEDY. Reverend FOWLER said after the shooting of President KENNEDY, OSWALD did not follow the escape plan and because of this and to prevent him from revealing the assassination plot, he was shot by JACK RUBY.

On February 26, 1964, Reverend FOWLER advised Special Agent MALFORD O. EID as follows:

The tape recording of a debate between LEE HARVEY OSWALD and CARLOS BRINGUIERE, which he played during his speech on February 23, 1964, had been obtained by him from the Christian Crusade, Tulsa, Oklahoma. The moderator of the tape recorded debate was BILLY JAMES HARGIS, Publisher of the "Weekly Crusader" Tulsa, Oklahoma. Reverend FOWLER stated HARGIS was not the original moderator. HARGIS' voice has been dubbed in to replace the original moderator, whose identity is not known to Reverend FOWLER.

Reverend FOWLER related that he attended an Anti-Communist Faculty Meeting in Shreveport, Louisiana from February 17-21, 1964. Representatives from twenty-five states attended, among these were General EDWIN WALKER, BILLY JAMES HARGIS and Dr. FERNANDO PENABAZ, a newspaper reporter for the "Fort Lauderdale News", Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The presence of resigned, rightist-extremist General Edwin Walker at Hargis's meeting with the Cubans was carefully omitted from the friendly deposition Commission Counsel Wesley Liebeler conducted, in which Walker pretty much controlled the Commission's "interrogation". Consistent with this, Liebeler also suppressed Bringuier's connection with Hargis. All this was in the files, based upon which he was to have conducted his inquiry. Walker quit the Army when it had the temerity to end his propagandizing the troops under his command in Germany with John Birch Society materials. The founder-dictator of the Birch Society, it should be recalled, described President Eisenhower as a "conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy". Bringuier's appearances under Hargis auspices, the suppression by Liebeler and the Walker "interrogation" are brought to light in OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS.

One night during this four day meeting, these individuals and Reverend FOWLER spent several hours in General WALKER's room discussing various matters, which included the assassination of President KENNEDY. During this discussion, General WALKER stated LEE OSWALD had shot at him and deliberately missed as part of a prearranged plan by the Communists. He stated the Communists felt that if he, WALKER, a conservative, were also shot at, this would make his shooting and that of President KENNEDY appear as the work of a crank. Reverend FOWLER stated Dr. PENABAZ was in complete agreement with General WALKER's theory in this regard.

Reverend FOWLER stated that during the four day meeting in Shreveport, Louisiana, he had been told by Dr. PENABAZ that the assassination of President KENNEDY arose from an agreement between President KENNEDY and Premier KHRUSHCHEV for the elimination of FIDEL CASTRO with the provision that Cuba would remain Communistic. CASTRO reportedly learned of this agreement and then made his own plans for the elimination of President KENNEDY. Reverend FOWLER stated Dr. PENABAZ also informed him that LEE OSWALD went to Cuba before the shooting of President KENNEDY and returned to the United States with $10,000 and the assignment of shooting President KENNEDY.

Reverend FOWLER stated information pertaining to the agreement between Premier KHRUSHCHEV and President KENNEDY and LEE OSWALD's trip to Cuba and his return to the United States with $10,000 has appeared in an article in "National Review", a publication out of New York City. Reverend FOWLER stated the "National Review" article indicated that a "New York Times" reporter had obtained, from a very good source, the story about OSWALD's trip to Mexico and his subsequent return to the United States with $10,000. The reporter reportedly had called the story in to the "New York Times" and it was prepared for publication but was then mysteriously withheld and was never published. Reverend FOWLER stated he did not learn the reason for the withholding of this article.

Reverend FOWLER stated that OSWALD, on his return from Cuba, was accompanied by one QUENTIN PINO, a Cuban or Mexican who now resides in Texas, who was to take OSWALD to Cuba after the assassination.

The Walker shooting romanticized in the first paragraph was long before it was known the President was going to Dallas. The available evidence is that Oswald could not have done it. The second paragraph, likewise, is untainted fabrication. The third paragraph is not contaminated by any association with fact. And the fourth is perhaps the wildest invention, one of the few things the Commission having established being the impossibility of Oswald's ever having been in Cuba. However, it is all consistent with the propaganda drumbeat of the extremists of the right in their effort to make it seem that the assassination was some kind of Communist conspiracy, its nature varying from time to time, to adapt it to current "thinking" or government "leaks" to the press. With the subject the murder of an American President, these men of religion and other high principle used their special manufactures to raise money. They commercialized the assassination heavily.

After shooting President KENNEDY, OSWALD was to follow an escape plan which called for him to wear a jacket of a particular color and after the shooting he was to take a taxicab to a location near the home of JACK RUBY. Then while walking toward RUBY's home he was to be picked up by a representative of PINO and then be taken to Cuba. Reverend FOWLER stated he had been informed by Dr. PENABAZ that OSWALD did not wear a jacket of the prescribed color and therefore was not picked up by Pino's representative. OSWALD then panicked and when stopped by a policeman he shot the policeman and thereafter, JACK RUBY killed OSWALD for not following the escape plan and to prevent him from revealing the assassination plot.

Reverend FOWLER also stated the garage mechanic who furnished information regarding OSWALD entering the Dallas, Texas, theater after the assassination has since been mysteriously killed.

Reverend FOWLER stated that Dr. PENABAZ informed him he had received his information regarding the agreement between Premier KHRUSHCHEV and President KENNEDY, CASTRO's reaction and the trip by LEE OSWALD to Mexico and Cuba, and his subsequent return to the United States with $10,000 in the company of QUENTIN PINO from one of his good friends in Cuba.

Reverend FOWLER stated that during conversations in General WALKER's room in Shreveport, Louisiana, General WALKER informed the group that LEE OSWALD and JACK RUBY were two of six members of a Communist Cell which was active in Dallas, Texas, at the time of President KENNEDY's assassination. Reverend FOWLER stated he was unable to recall definitely if QUENTIN PINO was also named as one of the six members.

This shows the childish twisting of "fact" in an effort to make it seem like what was appearing in the papers. Oswald was wearing no jacket when apprehended, was said to have shed a jacket alleged to have been his (the Commission suppressed the proof the jacket found near the murder of Dallas Policeman J. D. Tippit was not Oswald's) while "fleeing", is alleged to have taken a cab to near his rooming house, not Ruby's apartment. Not a garage mechanic but a shoe salesman furnished the information about a man he later said looked like Oswald entering the Texas theater. The garage mechanic, Domingo Benavides, closest person to the Tippit murder, described a murderer other than Oswald. Benavides was not "mysteriously killed", but his brother is said to have been. Ruby and Oswald were both anti-Communist, not members "of a Communist cell". Is it any wonder Penabaz is so eminently qualified to be Hargis's "adviser" on "international affairs" and his "official" biographer?

That memorandum on the FPCC which the FBI liked so much, attached to this and many other reports, is identical with the one appended to CD 159, above.